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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

James R. Geschwindt et al

Serial No.: 10/736,945

Filed: December 15, 2003

Title: Permeable Inlet Fuel Gas Distributor  
for Fuel Cells

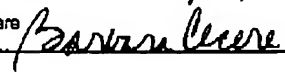
Docket No.: C-2950

Art Unit: 1795

Examiner: Laios, Maria J.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
(Fax No. 571-273-8300) on JANUARY 15, 2010

Barbara Cecere

RESPONSECommissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1-3. This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated December 23, 2009. Claims 1-14 are pending; claims 3, 5-8 and 10 are withdrawn; and claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 11-14 are present for consideration.

4. Claims 2, 4, 9 and 12 are rejected as anticipated by Kneldel. The problem is the meaning of the word "fuel"; as shown in the right center of Fig. 2 of Kneidel, the gas entering the structure is "*unreformed mixture of natural gas and steam*", at the arrow 14. In column 3, about lines 42-45, "*the gas 14 (an unreformed mixture of natural gas and steam) enters from the right....*"

In the present specification, at page 4, line 24 et seq., it is clear that "The fuel inlet manifold 12 provides fuel to all of the fuel cells 13." The fuel that is provided to the fuel cells is provided from a fuel supply pipe 11 to a compact inlet fuel distributor 10, and thence to a fuel inlet manifold 12, and thence "to all of the fuel cells 13".

Lines 5-9 of claim 2 requires "a fuel gas inlet manifold (12, 53, 63) in fluid communication with all of said fuel flow field inlets; and an inlet fuel gas distributor having a fuel inlet chamber (10, 53, 62) interconnected with said fuel supply pipe and including a permeable baffle (39, 54,